Joint Commission to enhance Cooperation with Sri Lanca

917. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a joint commission at the ministerial level to enhance cooperation with Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details of the talks held recently with the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka; and

(c) to what extent it would bring peace to the North-East region?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c). During EAM's visit to Colombo, it was decided that steps will be taken to establish an Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission chaired by the respective Foreign Ministers. While providing us an opportunity to exchange views on the ethnic issue, the visit also underlined our desire to develop all round bilateral relations, particularly in economic, trade and cultural fields. Our belief was reaffirmed that the political framework created by Sri Lanka following the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement of 1987 provides a viable basis for a reasonable and enduring settlement of the ethnic issue. In this context, it devolves on the Government of Sri Lanka to implement fully, in letter and spirit, the 13th Constitutional Amendment.

Support to democratic forces in Burma (Myanmar)

918. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFA IRS be pleased to state the reasons for which Government are not openly and vigorously supporting the democratic for-*cm* in Burma (Myanmar) in their struggle to re-establish a duly-elected Government in that country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): Government's sympathy and moral support for the democratic aspirations of the people of Myanmar are well-known and have been publicly expressed on several occasions. However, consistent with our well-established policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, Government cannot take any action which could be construed as interference in Myanmar's internal affairs.

Delivery time for posting letters MO. V.P.P. etc. at Guntur to Delhi

919. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the journey time of a Letterj M.O./V.P.P./Registered Letter/Book Post| Parcel posted at Guntur to be delivered at Delhi and vice versa;

(b) whether there is any delay in this regard during the last 5 years; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps have been taken to overcome those?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) Sir, journey time of a letter/MO| Registered. Letter Posted at Guntur to be delivered at Delhi and vice versa is on the 3rd day and for Book Post|VPP|Parcel on the 5th day.

(b) No, Sir, except in cases of late/ non-operation of trains]flights.